

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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E.O.11652:NA

TAGS: TGEN BDIS VE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ATS-6 COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY
DEMONSTRATION IN VENEZUELA

REF: A. CARACAS 10737; B. STATE 242776

1. FOLLOWING INFO BASED UPON DEPARTMENT OFFICERS' DISCUSSION
WITH FAIRCHILD INDUSTRIES REPRESENTATIVE:

A. FAIRCHILD INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT PROPOSED
DECEMBER 15 TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION (REFS A AND B) NOW OFF
AND POSSIBLE FUTURE DEMONSTRATION IN DOUBT. COMPANY REPORTED
THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVE ACCOMPANIED DR. FERNANDEZ MORAN IN
EARLY NOVEMBER ON TEN-DAY VISIT TO CARACAS AND WESTERN VENEZUELA
FOR PURPOSE ASCERTAINING TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY PROJECT AND
OBTAINING OFFICIAL APPROVAL. ALTHOUGH DEMONSTRATION FOUND
TO BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE AND MET WITH WIDESPREAD ENTHUSIASM,
EMPHASIS OF FERNANDEZ MORAN ON CROWDED SCHEDULES, VERY BRIEF
INTERVIEWS WITH IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF HIGH GOV OFFICIALS, AND
WINING AND DINING, TRIP RESULTED IN DEPARTURE OF FAIRCHILD REP
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WITHOUT FORMAL GOV REQUEST TO GO AHEAD WITH PROJECT.

B. COMPANY LEARNED NOVEMBER 15 THAT VENEZUELAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, PROPOSED GOV SPONSOR, HAS DECLINED ISSUE REQUEST. REPORTEDLY BECAUSE US PRESS REPORTS EARLIER THIS YEAR INDICATED ATS-6 SATELLITE FREQUENCY MAY INTERFERE WITH THAT OF RADIO ASTRONOMERS. THIS REASONS SURPRISES FAIRCHILD SINCE (ACCORDING TO FAIRCHILD) INTERFERENCE QUESTION ALREADY KNOWN TO ACADEMY. (FYI: NASA ADVISES THAT WHILE INTERFERENCE QUESTION CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY BY INTERAGENCY USG WORKING GROUP, NO LEGAL PROBLEM EXISTS END FYI).

C. DR. FERNANDEZ MORAN, NONETHELESS, STILL TALKING UP PROJECT. HE INFORMED FAIRCHILD THAT MATTER OF REQUEST NOT IN HANDS FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FINAL DECISION TO GO AHEAD MUST NOW AWAIT VISIT TO VENEZUELA OF DR. WERNHER VON BRAUN AND OTHER TWO AMERICAN SCIENTISTS (DISCUSSED REF A).

D. FAIRCHILD, WHICH NOW HAS MORE SOBER VIEW OF DR. FERNANDEZ MORAN, STILL VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN DEMONSTRATION AND POTENTIAL RESULTANT SALES THEREFROM, BUT CURRENTLY IN DARK RE POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATION IN EARLY 1975. COMPANY CANNOT LONG CONTINUE TIE UP DEMONSTRATION EQUIPMENT WITHOUT FIRM COMMITMENT.

2. FOR EMBASSY INFO: NASA IMPRESSION IS THAT DR. FERNANDEZ MORAN MAY BE SEEKING TO ENGAGE GOV ON BEHALF FAIRCHILD INDUSTRIES. NASA SPENT DAY IN EARLY OCTOBER WITH FERNANDEZ MORAN ASSISTING HIM TO PREPARE ACCEPTABLE PROPOSAL WHICH GOV COULD AUTHORIZE IN FORM OF LETTER REQUEST TO NASA. NASA STRONGLY INTERESTED IN MAXIMUM USE OF ATS-6 SATELLITE CAPABILITY, BUT WOULD HOPE THAT GOV COULD ENTER INTO PROPOSED TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION ON BASIS OF SOLID, INDIGENOUS INTEREST. KISSINGER

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